**

Inauguration of the Kassena Nankana Municipal Research-for-Development Platform: Upper East Region, Ghana

**Dominic Sobreh and Desire Naab**

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Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program’s monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. <http://africa-rising.net/>

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# Introduction

The inauguration was held at the Kassena Nankana Municipal hall on the 16 December 2014.It was chaired by Clement Y. Adda, Municipal Veterinary Officer for the Kassena Nankana Municipal. The key objective of the inauguration of the platform was to identify research activities and facilitate community engagement in planning, experimentation and technology evaluation, while also ensuring buy-in ownership by partners. Partners at the inauguration included both government and non-governmental agencies with the potential to ensure the sustainability of project activities and shared interest. Fifty nine (59) participants were present in the meeting.

# Highlights of the R4D platform meeting

## Welcome Address by the chairman

Dr Clement Adda who was the chairman welcomed all participants to the occasion and entreated them to be patient, listen attentively and participate fully in the discussions. He said that, the creation of the Research- for- Development (R4D) platform will provide an opportunity various stakeholders to contribute to addressing the needs of livestock farmers in the municipality.

## Address by local Government representative

The Municipal Chief Executive Dr Stanislaus Kadingli in his opening address called for dedication by the members of the R4D platform to ensure they contributed to addressing the challenges facing the ordinary farmer within the municipality. He also charged them to consider the key issues which are facing the smallholder farmer. Dr Kadingli thanked the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture for bringing a project which takes care of both crops and animals to the municipality noting that most of the ongoing projects in the municipality were either crop or livestock oriented. He commended this holistic approach and expressed optimism that the project will be expanded in future to other parts of the municipality so that the other communities within the municipality can also benefit.

## Speech by the Municipal Director of Agriculture

The Municipal Director of Agriculture Mr Seidu Adamu Vasco also made his presentation on the activities that have already been implemented in the previous years. He noted that trials were carried out on cowpea, maize, groundnut, soya bean, millet, sorghum and new farming systems which can be easily be adopted by the farmers were also introduced. Adamu Vasco also pointed out that agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and insecticides had also been distributed to farmers within the intervention communities in the past. To support activities of the R4D platform, he promised to provide more agricultural extension agents to promote the flow of information between the R4D platform and the farmers involved in the project within the intervention communities.

## Speech by the Africa RISING West Africa Chief Scientist

In his address to the participants, Dr Asamoah Larbi noted that the R4D platform will ensure the project returns to the planned bottom-up demand driven approach which will provide a pathway out of hunger and poverty for smallholder families. He explained that the project will also be addressing issues like post harvest operations and use of smaller farm equipments (Mechanization) in addition to improving crop and livestock productivity within the intervention communities. Dr Larbi promised that the project will also make efforts to improve extension in intervention communities by providing motorbikes to the Agricultural Extension Officers.

# Meeting objectives and expected outputs

Purpose of the meeting was to inaugurate the R4D platform committee to serve Bonia, Gia, Nyangua and Tekuru communities and elect executives to come out with their own plans and policies at different levels to inform the research and deployment of innovation to solve most of the issues that are most paramount in the community.

## Specific Objectives

1. Identification of problems affecting crop and livestock production in the community.
2. Identification of available opportunities within the community that farmers can exploit especially during the dry season to reduce poverty and enhance better standard of living.
3. Support demand driven research with focal areas identified collectively and the impact of such endeavor, measured in terms of meeting the demands.

## Expected output

1. Capture major problems affecting crops and livestock in the community.
2. Capture key opportunity that could be looked at to enhance the standard of leaving

# The meeting process

As shown in table 1, the executives and members for the R4D platform were chosen from various stakeholders of the Africa RISING project, which include local and district officials, Research institution, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ghana Health Service, Non-governmental organizations, private sector such as input dealers, livestock dealers, seed producers, Farmer Based Organization, Assemblyman, Chiefs , Magajiyas, Tindanas and Aggregators. Each group selected one member to represent them on the R4D platform management committee. The chief scientist outlined the various actors’ roles and responsibilities to them.

**Table 1:** List of executives elected

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | **Name** | **Position** | **Institution** |
| 1 | Edward Chanagia | Chairman | MoFA |
| 2 | Maxwell Abagye | Vice Chair | Assembly Man |
| 3 | Abdul Baqil Alhassan | Secretary | Municipal Assembly |
| 4 | Henrieta Agua | Treasurer | Magagia |
| 5 | Paul Adiga | Organizer | Cooperative Officer |
| 6 | Martin Seguri | Member | Farmer |
| 7 | Ayuu Asutia | Member | Farmer |
| 8 | Linda Attibila | Member | Youth Harvest Foundation |
| 9 | Akomoveh Ayageapam | Member | Farmer |
| 10 | Jagula Cletus | Member | Input Dealer |



**Photo:** Dr Stanilaus Kadingli (MCE) inaugurating the Kassena Nankana R4D committee

# Discussions during the meeting

During the discussions, participants outlined the following for the consideration by the project namely;

1. Supporting women groups during the dry season, a vegetable hub need be established for women to go into vegetable production using irrigation.
2. A loan facility need to be granted to enable the women groups, venture into income generating activities such as purchasing cereals and legumes after the farming season or harvesting, store and resell during the off season when the price is good.
3. Venture into ruminant and poultry production.

# Closing remarks

The chairman Dr Clement Addah in his closing remarks thanked all for making time to attend this meeting and charged everyone to endeavor to contribute to make the project a success in the municipality. A closing prayer was said by a volunteer that brought proceedings to an end.

# Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Name | Community Affiliation | Institution |  |
| 1 | Teni Agoni | Gia | Farmer |  |
| 2 | Agagye Maxwell | Tekuru | Assemblyman |  |
| 3 | Kabuga Tanchoge | Nyangua | Farmer |  |
| 4 | Martin Seguri | Nyangua | Farmer |  |
| 5 | Adongo Sydney | Navrongo | Department of Cooperative |  |
| 6 | Diana Akumanue | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 7 | Adamu Seidu Vasco | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 8 | Kadi Tiberu | Nyangua | Magagia |  |
| 9 | Akose Kolose | Gia | Magagia |  |
| 10 | Samuel Afiadaga | Nyangua | Tendana |  |
| 11 | Jacob Ewura | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 12 | Chanagia Simon | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 13 | Apoya Nabare | Gia | Livestock Officer |  |
| 14 | Roland Atarah | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 15 | C.Y. Adda(Phd) | Navrongo | Veterinary Director |  |
| 16 | Kasim Salifu | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 17 | Amadu Iddrusu Seidu | Sandema | Radio Builsa |  |
| 18 | Dr Asamoah Larbi | Tamale | Africa RISING |  |
| 19 | Akantae Portia A | Tamale | Africa RISING |  |
| 20 | Mustapha Osman | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 21 | Dr. Stanislaus Kadingdi | Navrongo | Municipal Chief Executive |  |
| 22 | Sumaila Abudu | Navrongo | Municipal Coordinating Director |  |
| 23 | Jagula Cletus | Navrongo | Agricultural Input Dealer |  |
| 24 | Elijah Bobby | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 25 | Kuguriye Priscila | Kasena/ Nankana | Youth Harvest |  |
| 26 | Thomas Feladam | Bonia | Farmer |  |
| 27 | Tunti Kabaga | Bonia | Farmer |  |
| 28 | Kuse Awerah | Bonia | Farmer |  |
| 29 | Salifu Kumbasia | Bonia | Farmer |  |
| 30 | Anome Kabuga | Bonia | Farmer |  |
| 31 | Baba Kunde | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 32 | Roland Atarah | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 33 | Mary Anemang | Navrongo | Naraa Rural Bank |  |
| 34 | Sule Ahmed | Navrongo | Market Actor |  |
| 35 | Savastin Chirasa | Navrongo | Seed Producer |  |
| 36 | Zedog Awafo | Bonia | Assemblyman |  |
| 37 | Doris Nabare | Bonia | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 38 | Robert Awutine | Nyangua | Chief(Nyangua) |  |
| 39 | Asi Apuri | Tekuru | Tekuru |  |
| 40 | Mary Miller | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture(Veterinary ) |  |
| 41 | Tangomse Felix | Gia | Farmer |  |
| 42 | Algawuley A. Eric | Navrongo | Nabina Radio |  |
| 43 | Awal Ahmed | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 44 | Awopone Roger | Navrongo | Temporal Staff |  |
| 45 | Ayireje Clement | Gia | Tindana |  |
| 46 | Hernritta Aguah | Tekuru | Magagia |  |
| 47 | Robert Akeyalim | Gia | Chief |  |
| 48 | Alhassah Abdul-Baqil | Navrongo | Municipal Assembly(Navrongo) |  |
| 49 | Clement Dimboe | Tekuru | Farmer |  |
| 50 | Akaara Nyakora | Tekuru | Farmer |  |
| 51 | Chanagia Edward | Navrongo | Ministry of Agriculture |  |
| 52 | Evelyn Adda | Navrongo | Ghana Health Services |  |
| 53 | Desire Naab | Navrongo | Africa RISING | |
| 54 | Mark Bukari | Navrongo | Africa RISING | |
| 55 | Dominic Sobreh | Navrongo | Africa RISING | |
| 56 | Akomove Agageapan | Gia | Farmer |  |
| 57 | Ahey Derrick | Gia | Farmer |  |
| 58 | Linda Atibilla | Bolgatanga | Youth Harvest | |
| 59 | Adigah Paul | Navrongo | Cooperative Officer |  |

Annex 2: Participants profile

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder segment** | **Functions in the platform** | | **Representation during the inauguration of platform** |
| **Farmers- (Crop & livestock)** | Users of research products.  Generate research agenda.  Engage in R4D process. | | 13 |
| **Input dealers** | First line of supply of inputs for out scaling | | 2 |
| **Produce traders** | Access to markets.  First line in produce quality assurance | 1 | |
| **Produce processors** | Add value to products  Create demand for produce | | 1 |
| **Researchers** | Generate new innovations to solve problems  Support extension and adoption | | 5 |
| **Media** | Innovation information dissemination | | 3 |
| **Ministry of Food agricultural extension staff** | Support adoption process  Support participatory research | | 11 |
| **District and Regional agriculture director** | Policy guidance for the R4D work | | 2 |
| **Local Government** | Policy guidance for the R4D work | | 4 |
| **Development partners** | Up and out scaling of innovations  Inform R4D process  Provide extension support | | 3 |
| **Community heads** | Lead the community innovations adoption process | | 10 |
| Total | | | 59 |